ORIGIN/ACTION P-2

IRM/R 1	REP	AF
RA	EUR 5	FE
NEA 7	CU	INR 5
E	P	IO
	FBO	AID
		SIP 1
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR 5
ARMY 3	CIA 10	NAVY 4
OSD 31	USIA 8	NSA 3
		NSC 6

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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XR DEF 12-5 LEB
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A-415 NO. UNCLASSIFIED HANDLING INDICATOR 834

TO : Department of State NOV 19 PM 12 30

INFO: Amman, Beirut, Cairo, Jidda, London, Paris, POLAD CINCSTRIKE/CINCMEAFSA

RM/AN ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION BRANCH

FROM : Amembassy Tel Aviv DATE: 17 November 1965

SUBJECT: More Press Speculation on Western Arms for Eastern Arabs

REF : EmbAir NC 400, November 10, 1965 P

On November 14 HAARETZ again focused on the question of Western arms sales to Arab governments. Its Paris correspondent reported on British, French, and US interest in aircraft sales to Jordan and Lebanon, and on the possibility of a UK-Saudi Arabia deal. A summary translation follows.

Yoel Marcus, HAARETZ Correspondent in Western Europe, reports from Paris that while Israeli representatives are taking diplomatic action in London to prevent the British-Saudi Arabian arms deal, it is learned that France is trying to hasten the sale of Mirage fighters to Jordan and Lebanon. A Jordanian military mission is said to have suddenly arrived in Paris on 13 November and a Lebanese mission is expected soon. In view of the financial difficulties of Jordan and Lebanon in paying for the purchase of the Mirage aircraft, it seems that Paris is willing to grant these two countries payment facilities. It would appear that the French were influenced by the fact that the United States sent representatives to Amman and Beirut in order to examine the possibility of the sale of aircraft to these two countries.

It is learned that in London Israeli efforts on the ministerial level are being made with a view to prevent the sale of British missiles and aircraft to Saudi Arabia.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 2 Jul 84

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Drafted by: POL:MRavor/SEPalmer,Jr./tt/11/15/65

Contents and Classification Approved by:

Clearances:

Saudi Arabia is said to have requested from Britain fifty ground-to-air missiles, a highly modern radar outfit, forty "Lightning 3" jet fighters as well as training aircraft. It seems that the British are reluctant to forego that order, worth eighty-five million pounds sterling, which is the biggest order for arms that the British war industry has received since the Second World War.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

Stephen E. Palmer, Jr.
First Secretary of Embassy